

REMARKS

Claims 6, 7, 15, and 16 are pending in this application. Claims 1-5, 8, 9, 10-14, 17, and 18 stand rejected and claims 6, 7, 15, and 16 are objected to. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 6, 7, 15, and 16. Claims 1-5, 8-14, 17, and 18 have been canceled without prejudice. By this Amendment, claims 6, 7, 15, and 16 have been rewritten in independent form to expedite allowance of this application. The amendments made to the claims do not alter the scope of this claim, nor have these amendments been made to define over the prior art. Rather, the amendments to the claims have been made for cosmetic reasons to improve the form thereof. In light of the amendments and remarks set forth below, Applicants respectfully submit that each of the pending claims is in immediate condition for allowance.

Claims 1-3 and 10-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being unpatentable over the Applicants' Admitted Prior Art ("AAPA").

Claims 5 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the AAPA.

Claims 8, 9, 17, and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the AAPA in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,282,217 ("Takase").

Applicants have cancelled all of the rejected claims thereby rendering these rejections moot. Thus, all of the pending claims are in immediate condition for allowance.

Applicants have responded to all of the rejections and objections recited in the Office Action. Reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance for all of the pending claims are therefore respectfully requested.

Application No. 10/715,553

Docket No.: F2108.0038

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

If the Examiner believes an interview would be of assistance, the Examiner is welcome to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

Ian R. Blum

Registration No.: 42,336
DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO LLP
1177 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10036-2714
(212) 277-6500
Attorney for Applicants

IRB/mgs